

## AP 4025      Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

Reference:      ***Title 5 Section 55061;  
Accreditation Standard ~~II.A.3~~ 2***

Date Issued:      June 13, 2012

Updated: ~~February 21, 2017~~

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~~The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (District) Governing Board believes that a community college should provide learning experiences that will greatly broaden student's educational opportunities and strengthen our society's democratic institutions.~~

~~The District's Chancellor shall ensure that the philosophy and criteria established by the Governing Board in BP 4025 is implemented. The Chancellor will also ensure that the procedures are published in the Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College catalogs and on the District's website.~~

The District's philosophy and criteria for the associate degree and general education ~~shall comply with Title 5 Regulations and Accreditation Standards~~ should address the considerations contained in the references listed above. These components include, but are not limited to:

- The programs of the District are consistent with the institutional mission, purposes, demographics, and economics of its community.
- The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree references the policy of the Board of Governors that the associate degree symbolizes a successful attempt to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insight, including:
  - ~~The~~ the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
  - ~~To~~ use mathematics;
  - ~~U~~nderstand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines;
  - ~~Gain an awareness~~ be aware of other cultures and times;
  - ~~A~~chieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and
    - ~~To~~ to develop the capacity for self-understanding

The philosophy and criteria regarding general education references the policy of the Board of Governors that general education should lead to better self-understanding, including:

- General education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world.
  - ~~General education introduces the content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge and provides an opportunity for students to develop in the following areas:~~
    - ~~Broaden knowledge and~~ intellectual skills;
    - ~~Enhance~~ information technology abilities facility;
    - ~~Develop~~ affective analytical, critical and creative capabilities,

- ~~Expand personal values and~~ social attitudes, ~~Gain an and an~~ appreciation for cultural diversity
- ~~Foster an interest in life-long learning~~

~~The procedures used to determine which courses implement the District's philosophy will follow the guidelines set forth in Board Policies BP 1300 Educational Philosophy, BP 2410 Board Policies and Administrative Procedures, and BP 2510 Participation in Local Decision Making – Academic Senates.~~

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General education is the foundation of the Associate Degree and is designed to introduce students to diverse ways of understanding the modern world. It reflects the conviction that all degree recipients share a fundamental grasp of key principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared across disciplines.

Recipients of an Associate Degree will be equipped to:

- think critically
- communicate clearly and effectively in both oral and written discourse
- use quantitative reasoning
- apply the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines
- develop cultural and historical awareness
- gain insights through experience with analyzing ethical problems
- cultivate self-understanding

Through general education, students acquire the skills necessary to evaluate and appreciate their physical environment, culture, and society. Finally, it fosters intellectual growth and lifelong learning.

Students graduating with an associate degree shall possess sufficient depth of knowledge in their field of study to support lifelong interests and career opportunities. Majors or areas of emphasis that provide this depth are composed of a minimum of eighteen (18) units. (See Administrative Procedure 4100: Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.)

The Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges' local general education pattern (Plan A) for the associate in arts and associate in science degrees requires the completion of a minimum of twenty-six (26) units. Courses listed in two different areas (1–7) may be used to satisfy a requirement in one area, but not both. However, a course listed in any area (1–7) may satisfy both a general education and a major or area of emphasis requirement. Certain eligible programs may be approved to waive Area 7 course requirements. Alternatively, the associate degree general education requirements can also be satisfied by completion of Cal-GETC (Plan B).

The Curriculum Committee of the respective college determines which courses can be used to implement the goals for the associate degree and philosophy of general education<sup>1</sup>. Similarly,

each college determines which programs are eligible to waive Area 7. The Curriculum Committees ensure all general education courses at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges fulfill the criteria set forth in Board Policy 4025.

1 | Course reciprocity will be applied between the colleges for the satisfaction of General Education requirements in the best interest of students. This practice affirms the commitment of both colleges to curricular alignment, academic integrity, and the facilitation of seamless student progression toward program completion.